

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (previously presented): An earring comprising:

a suspendable decorative ring, said decorative ring defining a mean plane of the ring and having a first end portion; and

an attachment portion depending from said first end portion of the decorative ring and comprising a unitary member having a first elongated substantially rectilinear portion extending at a first angle ( $\alpha$ ) relative to said first end portion of the decorative ring a second elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said first elongated portion to form an angular return bend that defines a second angle ( $\beta$ ) between said first and second elongated portions of said unitary member, and a third elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary member, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that said third elongated portion extends in a plane substantially parallel to said mean plane of the decorative ring, wherein said first elongated portion extends in a direction out of the mean plane of the ring.

Claims 15 and 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is approximately  $90^\circ$ .

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Claim 18 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein said second and third angles being selected so that a sum of said first, second and third angles is approximately  $360^\circ$ .

Claims 19 and 20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 14, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that said third elongated portion lies substantially in said mean plane of the decorative ring.

Claim 22 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is in the range of approximately  $90^\circ$  to  $180^\circ$ .

Claim 23 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is in the range of approximately  $30^\circ$  to  $100^\circ$ .

Claim 24 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 18, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is in the range of approximately  $30^\circ$  to  $100^\circ$ .

Claim 25 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein said decorative ring further comprises a second end portion and a fastening means for detachable engagement with a free end of said unitary member remote from

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said decorative ring first end portion to thereby prevent unintended disengagement of the earring from the user ear lobe.

Claim 26 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 18, wherein said decorative ring further comprises a second end portion and a fastening means for detachable engagement with said third portion of the unitary member to thereby prevent unintended disengagement of the earring from the user ear lobe.

Claim 27 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 21, wherein said decorative ring further comprises a second end portion and a fastening means for detachable engagement with said third portion of the unitary member to thereby prevent unintended disengagement of the earring from the user ear lobe.

Claim 28 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 25, wherein said fastening means comprises a substantially hollow portion defined at said second end portion of the decorative ring for receiving in said hollow portion the free end of said unitary member.

Claim 29 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 26, wherein said fastening means comprises a substantially hollow portion defined at said second end portion of the decorative ring for receiving in said hollow portion a free end of said unitary member.

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Claim 30 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 27, wherein said fastening means comprises a substantially hollow portion defined at said second end portion of the decorative ring for receiving in said hollow portion a free end of said unitary member.

Claim 31 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is approximately  $135^\circ$ .

Claim 32 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 31, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is approximately  $90^\circ$ .

Claim 33 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein the earring further comprises a hinge that connects the unitary member to the first end portion of the decorative ring.

Claim 34 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 33, wherein said hinge is configured for enabling pivoted rotation of the unitary member relative to the decorative ring about an axis defined transverse to the mean plane of the decorative ring.

Claim 35 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein a portion of said unitary member defines a plane substantially transverse to the mean plane of the decorative ring.

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Claim 36 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 18, wherein a portion of said unitary member defines a plane substantially transverse to the mean plane of the decorative ring.

Claim 37 (previously presented): An earring comprising:  
a suspendable decorative part, said decorative part defining a plane of suspension of the decorative part; and  
an attachment portion depending from said decorative part comprising a unitary member having a first elongated substantially rectilinear portion extending at a first angle ( $\alpha$ ) relative to said suspension plane of the decorative part, a second elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said first elongated portion to form an angular return bend that defines a second angle ( $\beta$ ) between said first and second elongated portions of said unitary member, and a third elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary member, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that said third elongated portion extends in a plane substantially parallel to said suspension plane of the decorative part.

Claim 38 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said first elongated portion extends in a direction out of the suspension plane of the decorative part.

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Claim 39 (cancelled).

Claim 40 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is approximately  $90^\circ$ .

Claim 41 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said unitary member further comprises a third elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary member, said second and third angles being selected so that a sum of said first, second and third angles is approximately  $360^\circ$ .

Claim 42 (currently amended): An earring in accordance with claim 37 39, wherein said unitary member further comprises a third elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary member, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that a sum of said first, second and third angles is approximately  $360^\circ$ .

Claim 43 (cancelled).

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Claim 44 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 37, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that said third elongated portion lies substantially in said suspension plane of the decorative part.

Claim 45 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is in the range of approximately  $90^\circ$  to  $150^\circ$ .

Claim 46 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is in the range of approximately  $30^\circ$  to  $100^\circ$ .

Claim 47 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 41, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is in the range of approximately  $30^\circ$  to  $100^\circ$ .

Claim 48 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is approximately  $135^\circ$ .

Claim 49 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 48, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is approximately  $90^\circ$ .

Claim 50 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein the earring further comprises a hinge that connects the unitary member to the decorative part.

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Claim 51 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 50, wherein said hinge is configured for enabling pivoted rotation of the unitary member relative to the decorative part about an axis defined transverse to the suspension plane of the decorative part.

Claim 52 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein a portion of said unitary member defines a plane substantially transverse to the suspension plane of the decorative part.

Claim 53 (previously presented): An earring in accordance with claim 41, wherein a portion of said unitary member defines a plane substantially transverse to the suspension plane of the decorative part.

Claims 54 to 58 (cancelled).

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